

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 206962

17

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 CPR-01 FBIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 USSS-00 /063 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:RFOBER,JR.:SLB

APPROVED BY NEA/INS:RFOBER,JR.

PROTOCOL:HDAVIS (INFO)

SECURITY:BBENNINGTON

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R 192355Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IN, PDIP, ASEC

SUBJECT: INCIDENTS INVOLVING INDIAN DIPLOMAT

1. FOR THE EMBASSY'S INFORMATION, THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE AND THE FBI ARE CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION OF TWO RECENT INCIDENTS INVOLVING A POLITICAL OFFICER AT THE INDIAN EMBASSY, KOTAMRAJU PRATAP. ON AUGUST 13 PRATAP'S CAR WAS APPARENTLY SET AFIRE AND ON AUGUST 16 A FIRE BROKE OUT IN THE BASEMENT OF HIS BETHESDA HOME. THE POLICE SUSPECT ARSON BUT HAVE NO IMMEDIATE LEADS. PRATAP REPORTED BOTH INCIDENTS TO A DEPARTMENT PROTOCOL OFFICER AUGUST 17, EXPLAINING HE WAS LEAVING WASHINGTON IN A FEW DAYS TO TAKE UP A NEW ASSIGNMENT BUT WAS CONCERNED BECAUSE HIS FAMILY WOULD REMAIN BEHIND FOR SOME TIME. PROTOCOL IN CONJUNCTION WITH SY HAS ARRANGED FOR THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE TO PROVIDE INCREASED PROTECTION AT PRATAP'S RESIDENCE.

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PAGE 02 STATE 206962

2. NEA/INS OFFICERS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR REGRETS TO PRATAP

AS WELL AS TO INDIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR RAO AND ADMIN FIRST SECRETARY KRISHNA. THE EMBASSY APPEARS SATISFIED WITH THE HANDLING OF THE CASE AND APPRECIATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN.

3. UPI IS CIRCULATING A BRIEF ITEM (CARRIED IN WASHINGTON POST AUGUST 19) REPORTING THE INCIDENTS. PRATAP IS QUOTED SAYING HE KNOWS OF NO MOTIVE FOR THEM AND HE HAS HAPPY RELATIONS HERE (IN THE WASHINGTON AREA). A PHOTOGRAPH ACCOMPANYING THE STORY SHOWS PRATAP PEERING AT HIS BURNED-OUT CAR.

4. JUDGING FROM THE LOW-KEY REACTION OF THE INDIAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS (APART FROM PRATAP, THEY HAVE INITIATED NO CONTACT WITH THE DEPARTMENT ON THE CASE), IT IS POSSIBLE THE MATTER WILL NOT COME UP IN DELHI. HOWEVER, WE WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. ROBINSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, ARSON, POLICE PROTECTION RIGHTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** RFOBER,JR.:SLB  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 JUN 2004  
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**TAGS:** PDIP, ASEC, IN, US, (PRATAP, KOTAMRAJU)  
**To:** NEW DELHI  
**Type:** TE  
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